

Quarterly journal of the Socialist Party of Canada

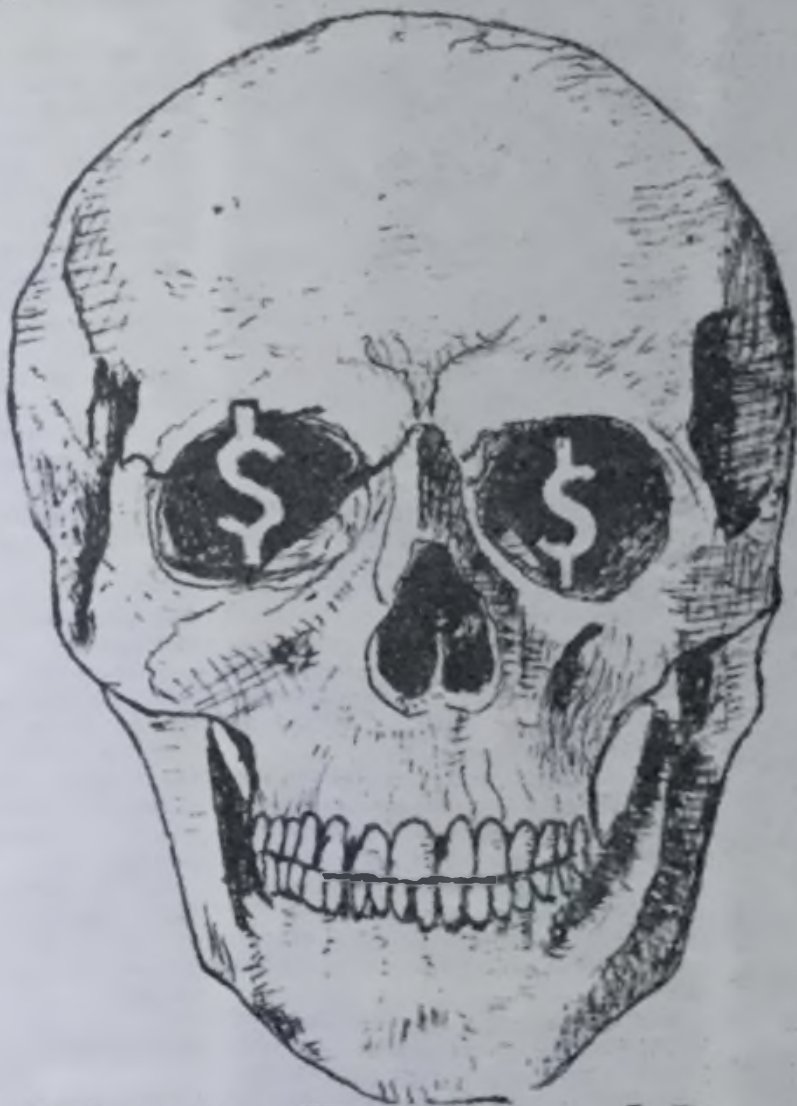
1980
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Socialist Fulcrum

For A Wageless World Of Voluntary Co-operation And Free Access
Through Common Ownership and Democratic Control

VOLUNTEER
SOCIALIST
PRODUCTION

40¢



Is Man An Endangered Species?

ELECTION '80

OLD MISTAKES REVIVED

GOLD

ELECTION & LEADERS

NDP CAPITALISM

YOUR BALLOT

Vintage Views In the News

Editorial Note: In common with her sisters, Sylvia was a bit thin on theory. Class distinctions do not, as Sylvia contends, arise from differences of education but from ownership of means of production. There are examples of poorly educated, even stupid, children of capitalists who live with power and comfort. Nevertheless the article makes interesting reading if only to compare how far her modern contemporaries have fallen from her position.

THE FUTURE SOCIETY by Sylvia Pankhurst

The words Socialism and Communism have the same meaning. They indicate a condition of society in which the wealth of the community, the land and the means of production, distribution and transport are held in common, production being for use and not for profit.

Socialism being an ideal towards which we are working, it is natural that there should be some differences of opinion in that future society. Since we are living under Capitalism it is natural that many people's ideas of Socialism should be colored by their experiences of life under the present system. We must not be surprised that some who recognize the present system is bad should yet lack the imagination to realize the possibility of abolishing all the institutions of Capitalist society. Nevertheless there can be no real advantage in setting up a half-way-house to socialism. A combination of Socialism and Capitalism would produce all sorts of injustice, difficulty and waste. Those who happen to suffer under the anomalies would continually struggle for a return to the old system.

Full and complete Socialism entails the total abolition of money, buying and selling, and the wages system.

It means the community must set itself the task of providing rather more than the people can use of all the things that the people need and desire, and of supplying these when and as the people require them.

Any system by which the buying and selling system is retained means the employment of vast sections of the population in unproductive work. It leaves the productive work to be done by one portion of the people whilst the other portion is spending its energies in keeping shop, banking, making advertisements and all the various developments of commerce which, in fact, employ more than two-thirds of the people today.

Given the money system, the wage system is inevitable. If things needed and desired are obtainable only by payment those who do the work must be paid in order that they may obtain the means of life. The wage system entails such institutions as the old-age pension, sick and unemployment insurance and widow's pensions, or the Poor Law, and probably plus the Poor Law. These involve large numbers of people drawn from pro-

APPEAR TO BE DIFFERENT

The death of former Tory Prime Minister John Diefenbaker brought about a bye-election in the Prince Albert federal constituency.

A "crowd" (to use the terminology of the Saskatchewan "Commonwealth") of 1,000 attended an NDP convention to pick a candidate for the Nov. 19th poll.

Stan Hovdebo, the chosen one said:

I believe in a society where equality is not only desirable, but possible.

A society where social equality is desirable describes present society: capitalism, a class divided system where the exploited majority vaguely longs for classless democracy, a percentage of whom think the NDP is the vehicle for achieving this end. The Socialist Party of Canada has known since the Co-operative

ductive work to do purely administrative work. Thus useless toil is manufactured, and the burden of non-producers maintained by the productive workers is increased.

Moreover social conditions are preserved which are quite out of harmony with Communist fraternity. The wage system makes the worker's life precarious. The payment of wages entails the power to dismiss the worker by an official or officials.

So long as the money system remains, each productive enterprise must be run on a paying basis. Therefore it will tend to aim at employing as few workers as possible, in order to spend less on wages. It will also tend to dismiss the less efficient worker who becoming unemployed, becomes less efficient. Thus an unemployable class tends to grow up.

The existence of a wage system almost inevitably leads to unequal wages; overtime, bonuses, higher pay for work requiring special qualifications. Class distinctions are purely differences of education, material comfort and environment.

Buying and selling by the Government opens the door to official corruption. To check that, high salaried positions are created in order that those occupying them have too much to lose to make pilfering and jobbery worth while.

One Big Union Bulletin, Aug. 2, 1923.

VINTAGE VIEWS

Letter from Charles Lestor

... we can never forgive the founder of the third international for stabbing the revolutionary movement in the back and handing over the proletariat of Western nations to the forces of opportunism and reaction.

They have attempted to sacrifice the Social Revolution upon the altar of Russian Nationalism. This the revolutionists can never forgive; not forgive, Charles Lestor — One Big Union Bulletin, Dec. 11, 1924

Commonwealth Federation (the NDP's former name) was inaugurated in 1953 that the CCF/NDP stands for capitalism, the state or the private variety being of little concern. The NDP is more easily exposed however, when spokesmen like Hovdebo are inadvertently candid.

One of Hovdebo's qualifications was said to be "... his vote-getting ability," when he was the NDP's choice in the May general election, where he took 7,500 votes away from Diefenbaker. To effect this, it helps to appear to be an alternative to the other parties, and the "Commonwealth" (Oct. 24th) as much as said so: "Stan Hovdebo's approach was one of ... confidence in setting a process in motion that would present a clear alternative to the voters and produce, as a logical result, an NDP victory."

Deception can be "tough sledding" and always demands a renewal of schemes to appear to be "a clear alternative." After all the years, when the CCF/NDP has been shown to be anything but, both in and out of office, it has no choice. The instance of CCF'ers voting for John Diefenbaker in the 1945 general election in Lake Center, must have been a tough one to play down in later years. They had been told by their leader of the time, M. J. Coldwell, that Diefenbaker was a better man for the west than the Liberal candidate and the CCF had no chance of winning there.

The establishment of a system of social equality cannot be brought about by sheep follow-shepherds. The "crowd" at the P.A. nominating convention of course was deceived by the slick phrase of the candidate: I believe in a society where equality ... is possible.

Political parties whose memberships are divided into generals at the top, and privates or "the crowd" at the bottom, are committed to social inequality. The means indicate the end.

DAMNED IF THEY DO AND DAMNED IF THEY DON'T

"Belgrade (Reuter) After three days of gloomy speeches about the state of the international economy, world financial leaders, ending their conference here agreed that hard times must continue in order to beat inflation." (Western Producer, Nov. 17/79.) But inflation was caused to beat hard times.

TO CAUSE PEACE, MANUFACTURE AND SELL ARMS

Washington — "The U.S. announced it would sell helicopter gunships and armed reconnaissance planes to Morocco, and asked King Hassan to join negotiations to resolve the West Sahara dispute."

Gymnich, West Germany — "Chancellor helmut Schmidt told visiting Chinese leader Hua Guofeng West Germany was determined to continue its policy of detente with the Soviet bloc on the basis of East-West military equality." (Western Producer, Nov. 1/79.)

IS MAN AN ENDANGERED SPECIES?

Never before in the history of mankind has the population of the world been faced with mass destruction and death. People are confused and confounded. They are not even discussing the question. To them it seems to be an enigma — a riddle without a solution.

There has been a religious revival and many people are seeking solace in the new religions which have sprung up; others seek transcendental meditation as a form of escape from the world's ills and others resort to drugs and booze. Others are exploring the possibilities of U.F.O.'s, with the forlorn and childish hope that strange, little creatures from outer space will visit the world in order to save it.

There are even some people, who when questioned about mass destruction, shrugged their shoulders and said "I couldn't care less," but their tone of voice belied their answer.

When the nuclear reactor mal-functioned at Three Mile Island at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, people were understandably scared. The White House tried to play down the danger but it was impossible for newspapers to do so. It was reassuring for Canadians to hear on the T.V. news report that the wind was blowing eastwards towards the Atlantic Ocean, but not so reassuring for passengers on ocean liners. The people's faces were drawn and haggard for they were fearing the worst and hoping for the best as they silently went about their business like mindless zombies. It was serious, for it even wiped the smile from President Carter's face when he visited the plant during the danger period. In a few days the immediate threat of a large radiation fallout was over. We all gave a sigh of relief and it was "business as usual," but no-one knows yet of the long term effects to the people living in the immediate vicinity of Harrisburg. It was reported that some cattle died from the effects of radiation and the farmland was contaminated.

Ironically, as if it had been planned, "The Chin Syndrome" — a film about a fault developing in a nuclear reactor, which could have led to a 'meltdown' — was playing at the movies and people went in droves to see it, like moths fascinated by a light bulb.

Since the tragedy at Harrisburg, the press have been strangely silent about the effects of radiation in the immediate vicinity and elsewhere. The usual excuse for governments ordering a blackout of news, and it is impossible to ascertain if this has been done, is that they do not wish to cause "alarm and dispendency."

Pollution of the atmosphere by radiation fell out from reactors is dangerous but it becomes mind boggling when one considers the terrible destructive weapons of war which the nations of the world now possess. The major powers can now destroy the world several times over. John Cox, in his book "Overkill" describes these weapons. Capitalism has brought us to this sorry state

of affairs, for we are perilously teetering on the brink of the world destruction. And now the U.S.A. has the neutron bomb, a weapon which will kill life but leave property intact. Perhaps they and other powers are working on an improved bomb, one that will kill workers but will avoid killing capitalists. After all, the latter control your minds and their power rests upon their vast wealth which they obtain from their ownership of the means of wealth production and with your willing co-operation. You are nothing more than wage slaves. You are more interested in watching baseball and Hockey Night in Canada on T.V. or reading "Dear Abby" and what the Stars Forerell in the newspapers, than attempting to understand the social problems which beset the world.

But wait I hear a protesting voice. Right, some of you did have your protest marches when with banners flying you demonstrated outside Embassies to "Ban the Bomb." Some of you even parachuted onto the grounds of Nuclear Reactor Plants and impassioned speeches were made. Some of you were arrested by the cops, for it appears to be a crime to protest, but, of course, it was said that you were creating a disturbance. It was very naughty of you to do that, and you could go home and sleep in peace, happy in the knowledge that you had "done your bit." It is embarrassing watching these demonstrations, for, no matter how well-meaning these demonstrators are, they haven't the remotest idea of the economics of capitalism and wish for capitalism to continue on its perilous way. They do not realize that capitalism is the cause of war. It would be equally futile if they went to Niagara Falls and yelled "Stop," for there is little thought behind their actions. These people are reformers.

Reforms, by their very nature, can only alleviate and attempt to ease a condition that is difficult to bear. No one would deny that some reforms do ease some of the worst features of capitalism. The aged, after a lifetime of work making profits for their employers, are now retired on a meagre government pension, but their lives would be more wretched without it. The welfare recipients can now eke out a hand-to-mouth existence. Instead of starving they now suffer from malnutrition, which ruins their health and shortens their lives. Poverty, in a world of abundance is around us everywhere for those who have eyes to see it.

The unions frequently win wage increases, which rarely keep up with escalating prices and the cost-of-living index. Lastly, the affluent do-gooders like to help the poor and needy out of "goodness of heart," but would possibly have a major heart attack if poverty was abolished. They love to be charitable to those who have produced their wealth. It is a bait which salves their consciences.

Some left-wing organizations maintain that they are the vanguard (i.e. idealists) who, by advocating reforms in order to gain

political power, will be able to lead the working class to socialism. They are in a hurry and conclude that they have a short cut to socialism and have no time to propagate socialist knowledge. These self-styled intellectuals rarely define what socialism is, if at all, and they are completely dishonest and underhanded for, how can they, even if they are elected to Parliament, bring about a true change in society without a mandate for this purpose.

Then there are those who argue that socialism will come through the "irrevocability of gradualism," after a long series of reforms. According to this theory reforms are like bricks, which, one by one are slowly and inexorably building the edifice (Socialism).

There are two fundamental flaws in this argument for (1) the bricks would be built on a rotten foundation, capitalism, and the edifice would come crashing down and, (2) reforms are not a cure but a palliative. The Labour Party in England espoused this theory and their actions over the years, in and out of government, have exposed them as being enemies of the working class.

The N.D.P. had at one time a worker anti-philosophy, but during the election they blatantly showed that their interests lay with big business, where it had always been. In fact, during the election it was quite common to hear workers say "They're all alike — just interested in feathering their own nests" and, as would add, the needs of powerful capitalist trading groups, whose interests they represent.

Capitalism cannot be reformed out of existence. We are a revolutionary party, therefore we are opposed to reformism. So it boils down to a question of reform or revolution. The word "revolution" sends a cold shiver down the spine of many people. It seems workers would rather face the possibility of a nuclear war.

Revolution means a fundamental change and in the sense which we use it, it means a complete change of society, from private ownership of wealth production to common ownership of wealth production, a classless society in which all will co-operate for the benefit of all and wars and the threat of a nuclear holocaust would be nightmares of the past. If we all own in common the productive forces, with the co-ordinated elimination of the salaried executives of capitalist society, food will be sent to where it is needed and the amenities of life will be available to the whole of mankind. There would be no buying or selling and you would not be ruled by the wage system, for the need for money would no longer exist.

Socialism is the antithesis of capitalism.

"But then would mean a bloody revolution," some of you are saying in disgust. We have had two world wars, which ran supported and we did not, in which millions were slaughtered in bloody battles, and which solved some of the social problems, neither did it "make the world safe for democracy."

It would be preferable if people did not get

ELECTION '80

The Clark Conservative government was recently defeated by the Liberals, the NDP and the abstention of the five Social Creditors in the House of Commons, forcing a federal election, to be held Feb. 18th.

The P.C.'s won their minority government position in the election of May 1979, with a bizarre program of increased spending, not surprisingly aimed at solving or alleviating some working Jane and Joe problems. The Liberals on the other hand, warned of further worker belt tightening, a process which is as sure as the next day's sun rising in the face of a world recession.

Both Trudeau and Broadbent warned Clark during the last contest that he was dangling more bait before working class eyes than the "state of the economy" would allow. The difference between being in and being out of office was soon demonstrated by the Tories. The cutback dictates of the present profit interests of the owning class were soon apparent. But the P.C.'s went further than either of their shadow-boxing buddies advocated, at least while in their positions on the sidelines.

The huge gasoline tax increase and other concealed excise levies on some ordinary commodities would have an obvious as well as an immediate effect of lowering the consumption levels of the mass who drudge for wages, for a time at least. Not slick enough to suit the "opposition."

These actions on the political stage of the minority class that owns the means of life and calls the shots, do their share in cultivating the myth of an energy shortage in terms of current technological ability. They encourage the fairy tale that the poisonous denigration of this planet can be contained within the present social arrangement that requires it. Along with many other dubious tales cooked up for the cerebral consumption of the nine-to-fivers, to keep them (thinking that no workable alternative system is possible, despite their dissatisfaction with the effects of this one).

The only shortage of energy is within the narrow context of profit production and a shift in the delicate political control balances of oil rich areas of the earth. If energy production was released from the confines of the profit prerogative, there would be no foreseeable shortage for humanity. Likewise with pollution. The earth could be a clean, abundant, happy home for the human species if it consciously (democratically) controlled its social and technical processes. This would mean common ownership, so that each individual stood equally in relation to all others in controlling social affairs. Meaning that all would produce voluntarily according to ability and consume according to their requirements, with no buying or selling. This would mean an administration for all society replacing the coercive state that forces the will of a parasite owning class now. Present day pollution is an unavoidable part of capitalism's cost cutting, res-

tricted production geared to profit alone.

Those Belts Were Never Loose

Whichever political faction of the rulers wins this time, the belt-tightening on the part of the majority whose belts were never loose, will continue. The situation will be different for those on top of the heap. Example: the new model Cadillacs and Rolls Royces, paid for in cash, will not be "fuel efficient."

Socialist Party of Canada
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Is Man An Endangered Species?

in a warlike manner but capitalism has twisted the minds of so many people that there may be a few gun-toting individuals who would want to commit murder.

In the past and to the present political power has frequently been seized by armed might, changing one group of gangsters for another group of gangsters, and capitalism has remained firmly entrenched; or workers have misguidedly voted for reformist parties, Tory, Liberal and NDP, all of which are avid supporters of capitalism.

The Socialist Party has never pandered to the electorate in order to cadge their votes. We want your votes, but what is overwhelmingly important, is that firstly you understand your class position in society, and study the case for socialism, so that you know where you are going, and what you are doing, then you will no longer be led by leaders along the path to ruin.

We are not pacifists, we are realists and the only way to obtain socialism is to have socialists. Our propaganda is directed to this end.

If you think you are worthy of a full life, a life more conducive to human happiness and well being, it is imperative that you join and work with us so that our propaganda, via the written word, can be widely distributed for the purpose of winning over the majority to elect socialist candidates to Parliament with a mandate for socialism.

This is not confiscation, it is restitution. If you still believe in reforms — try reforming the neutron bomb!

They'll still be air conditioned against the exhaust fumes of "fellow" drivers, noise proof, commodious and pleasant. And if the price of gas went up to \$10.00 a gallon or litre, their owners could care less. Neither would a wage increase for their chauffeurs bother them. These are the people who belong to the privileged class, who generally have never been near the unpleasant places where their opulence is created. They are the politically powerful people who directly or indirectly finance the politicians, left and right, who call the tune that their hirelings dance to. It is this class's profit interest that most social processes revolve around.

Wages, whether high or low, are paid to maintain the workers as efficient producers of surplus values for the employing class. The difference in the price level of marketable skills between the inevitable boom and bust cycles is as nothing compared to the wage-slave's ration in relation to the free access consumption of the system recommended by the Socialist Party of Canada.

Aside from the ridiculous presentation made to the "little people" generally by the left-centre-right parties, the spectacle of the Liberals and the NDP defeating the Tory government because it used too much of the Liberals' and NDP's election program borders on the sublime. Hair splitting aside, the bosses' representatives are now down to cracking crumbs to differentiate one from another.

Tired and disillusioned Pierre has opted to head the Liberals one more time. In 1968 he descended, like Santa Claus, from the arms helicopter, to an audience of thousands in Beacon Hill Park, Victoria, where the Socialist Party of Canada maintained an outdoor speaking spot. The SPC distributed a leaflet to that audience which portrayed Trudeau as a puppet in the hands of the country's money bags. The adoring audience appeared to be oblivious to the information in the election leaflet, apparently seeing only the saviour who had descended from the heights. With a wave of his cape, the great man was off again, to mesmerize the millions.

As if more evidence was necessary, an intellectual, even a rich one, cannot run a class divided, antagonistic society in the interest of its victims. Neither could Jesus Christ, if such an individual ever existed. And Karl Marx would know better than to try. That's why he advocated the alternative, which doesn't exist anywhere yet.

When the next boom looms, more wage subsidies will be allowed to fall from the masters' banquet table, and life will continue to be relatively bleak for the majority that not only produces everything but runs the system for their rulers.

Penetrating the deceptive fog blanket that surrounds the issues in the way out as always, since 1931, the Socialist Party of Canada stands ready to assist in this process.

S.C.

In Struggle

OLD MISTAKES REVIVED

In today's relative political apathy it is not to see some young adults committed to what they see as social change to remedy the ills of the employed class.

In *Struggle* is one of several descendent Bolshevik types split off from their original ideology in part, by the developing capitalism of Russia. The minority violent seizure of power by the Leninists in 1917 in those material-historical conditions allowed only the building of state capitalism.

On the positive side, *In Struggle* has discovered that capitalism "has been restored" in the USSR since the 1950's. On the negative side it is not aware that nothing but a class divided system has existed there, feudalism up to 1917, and the building of state capitalism since. I.S. is ambivalent in its *Draft Program*, as the early "Communist" parties were (but they had a better excuse) which describes the process of capitalist exploitation of the working class accurately, but does not apply this process, with its wages system, banks, money, rent, interest, profits, etc. to pre-1950's Russian or to present day China.

It passively accepts Lenin's and Stalin's gross distortion of Marx, that there is a difference in the meaning of the terms *Socialism* (social ownership) and *Communism* (common ownership, both of which cannot be moneyless, wageless, classless, frontierless world of free access, voluntary work and democratic control. They accept the Leninist/Stalinist concealment of Russian state capitalism under the guise of "Socialist" dictatorship of the proletariat or long transition period to "Communism" (which was promised by Khrushchev by 1980 and would ensure every Russian worker an egg a day). It accepts the early French capitalist revolutionary Blanquist come Leninist view of an enlightened leadership at the head of politically unconscious followers, which, in the historical-material conditions of the French & Russian feudalism ripe for capitalism could only result in a dictatorship of a few over the workers and peasants. In the milieu of the present highly industrialized and economically integrated earth, this outlook is as relevant to working people's problems as the horse and buggy is in terms of today's transport.

The level of consciousness which sees capitalism or social inequality only in big power invasion of satellites (when they threaten to be disloyal) is in for further disillusionment when its new idol, China, matures as a full fledged capitalist power and behaves accordingly.

Neither contemporary logic nor Marx's analysis can support the contradiction that Socialism is "nothing but state capitalist monopoly made to benefit the whole people," to use Lenin's words.

A breathtaking absence of reason is involved in the view that after 42 years of exploitationless Socialist transition toward

Communism that capitalism suddenly becomes reinstated in Russia. I.S. is being just as bewildered to assume that in its planned "dictatorship of the proletariat," there will be a working class "in control" and a capitalist class dethroned from state power, but exploitation of the propertyless class will end. How can there be a class of owners of capital without its exploitation of the non-owners? Or as Marx said in "Wage-Labor and Capital," "The existence of a class which possesses nothing but the ability to work is a necessary presupposition of capital." And, "thus, capital presupposes wage-labor and wage-labor presupposes capital. They mutually condition one another: they mutually bring each other into existence."

What is the difference between I.S.'s proposed "guaranteed minimum wage for all" (I.S.'s concept of Socialism) and the "Fair days' pay for a fair day's work" described by Marx as a conservative motto in "Value, Price & Profit"? In the same sentence Marx adds "abolition of the wages system" as a condition of Socialist/Communist society.

I.S.'s goal to expropriate the banks and industrial monopolies is merely state capitalism, and the owning class won't mind a hypothetical Canadian Communist party in office saying the capitalist class is no longer in control and that exploitation has ended. To qualify for their "minimum wage" the class that possesses nothing but their ability to work will have to regularly present themselves at the boss's premises to expand capital via profits, exactly as I.S. explains it on pages 34 & 35 of its *Draft Program*. Like the early Leninists & leftists in general, I.S. thinks private ownership is the sole form of class ownership and that state ownership is something different.

According to I.S. "exploitation of man by man" has ended in China. The 300,000 capitalists of that country (in 1969) would smile at this one. (Barry Richman, *Capitalists and Managers in Communist China*.) So exploitation has ended in a country where one rich family can spend more on a single meal in a high class restaurant than some working class families receive in wages for eight months! (Victoria Times, May 27/75). The Chinese constitution guarantees the right to own private property in the means of production. Though strikes are outlawed, they do take place. Against whom do the workers strike if there is no exploitation by a master class, themselves?

Contrary to Marx and common sense, classlessness cannot be established through unconscious violence by sheep following blind leaders, "the leadership of (their) party," (*Draft Program*), but only by the "self conscious, independent movement of the immense majority, in the interest of the immense majority." (Marx Engels, *Communist Manifesto*). Or as Engels put it in his introduction to Marx's "Class Struggle in France."

Where it is a question of a complete transformation of the social organization, the masses themselves must also be in it, must themselves already have grasped what is at stake, what they are going to for.

NATIONALISM

Nationalism, in the words of a philosopher, is the last refuge of a scoundrel. It is also used by the owners of the earth to encourage class division and its antagonisms, including the state capitalist countries. In Canada, I.S. is being as conservative as the Clark's party or the conservative ideologues of Moscow or Peking, in lately advocating national determination for the workers of Quebec or national liberation for third world "peoples." I.C.'s *Draft Program* repeatedly refers to Canada as "our" country, in massive contradiction to the Marxian and obvious fact of propertylessness of the majority.

In its efforts to perceive the political source of their problems, working people do not need a minority telling them that their emancipation (end of exploitation) is to be found in a different variety of capitalism run by a "Communist" party.

It is debatable as to which groups retard working class thinking the most, the rightists who admit their capitalist support, or the leftists who ambiguously parade a Socialist window dressing which conceals their support of capitalist ideas in the back office. Like the old CCP and other current Bolshevik splinters, I.S. campaigns for "immediate demands" now, or concessions for workers, reforms to capitalism, and a classless society ultimately — (at the very end). By not knowing that Socialism/Communism is the answer now, I.S.'s promotion of capitalism now means that in effect it means capitalism always.

J.G.J.

PRODUCTION PROBLEMS

Production problems in 1979 caused only two issues of SOCIALIST FULCRUM to be produced. Normal production of four issues should resume in 1980. The estimate of loss to subscribers is 75¢ and SOCIALIST FULCRUM is prepared to make restitution to its subscribers as below (please check choice).

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GOLD

Gold prices have now reached and passed the mystical figure of \$300 per fine oz. Perhaps now is the time to have another look at this particular commodity that appears to possess peculiarities, some merely apparent and others quite real. One of these is its changing prices. This is the true barometer of deflation or inflation but mainly the latter over the past 45 years. Moreover, since the U.S.A. has emerged as world leader in industry, commerce, and finance for well over half a century it is here we can look in our efforts to unravel the mystique of gold. It is from that country we are able most systematically, regularly and clearly to read, almost daily, of the gold price reports.

First of all gold is a commodity in that human labor time is required for its production and that it is produced for the purpose of exchange (no gold miner has yet been found who can live only by eating his gold). It is merely one commodity mingling amid a multitude of a growing diversity of commodities, each one seeking to have its value expressed on the world markets. And of course this means money. Says Marx on this fascinating subject: "Since money is not the result of deliberation or of agreement, but has come into being spontaneously in the course of exchange, many different, more or less unsuitable, commodities were at various times used as money..." (1) (P. 49)

He continues: "The necessary physical properties of the particular commodity, in which the money form of all other commodities is to be crystallised... are: (1) unlimited divisibility, (2) homogeneity of its parts, (3) and uniform quality of all units of the commodity, (4) as the materialisation of universal labor time and capable (5) of expressing only quantitative differences (6) another necessary property is durability of its use value since it must endure through the exchange process. Precious metals possess these qualities in an exceptionally high degree." (1) (P. 49) (Gold in particular.)

GOLD AND THE AMERICAN \$

From the late 19th Century up till early 1935 21 U.S. \$ notes was the token value of 1

oz. of fine gold. So that 1 U.S. \$ bill was equal to 1/21 oz. gold. Then President Roosevelt, in an attempt to inflate the U.S. out of Post World War I slump raised to 35 the number of \$ notes to equate with 1 oz. gold. This would appear to be raising the price of gold, but such is merely an illusion. Actually the exchange value of the \$ U.S. token note had fallen from 1/21 to 1/35 of a gold oz. (This deflating of the token value of the \$ note, (and a proportionate inflation of commodity prices) just kept right on hap-

pening at a faster or slower rate all through the 44 years since 1935, until... The price of gold rocketed past \$ U.S. 300 an ounce yesterday as the finance world sought refuge from the weakening U.S. dollar." (2) (3) reports came in from Hong Kong, London, Sydney, Tokyo. "The price of gold has risen by more than \$100 an ounce in less than a full year." (2)

Taking a look at a few cardinal points during the past 44 years the following can be seen:

	early 1935	Roosevelt inflation 1935	July 1978	July 1979	1979-80
No. of \$ U.S. Notes per one ounce of gold	21	35	200	300 ^{us}	pos. 315
Value of each \$ U.S. Note on early 1935 basis	\$1	60c	10.5c	7c	6.66c
No. of \$ U.S. Notes to equal 1935 basis	1	1.66	9.52	14.28	15

Thus does U.S. inflation approach, (see 1979-80 column), the fifteen fold inflation as used by Marx to illustrate gold coins and their replacement by 15 token notes for each such coin. Says Marx: "As the name (dollar) would indicate one-fifteenth of the previous quantity of gold, all commodity-prices would be fifteen times higher and (\$1210,000,000 notes would now be indeed just as necessary as (\$14,000,000 had previously been. The decrease in the quantity of gold which each individual token of value represented would be proportional to the increase aggregate of these tokens." (P. 120) (1) (\$ sign here is used to replace Marx's use of £)

Nor need this 15 fold increase of \$ notes over gold coin be the last we see of inflation. It could, slowly or rapidly, be increased by 15 and again by 15 and yet again by this amount etc. "Because the pieces of paper have a legal rate of exchange it is impossible to prevent the State from thrusting any arbitrarily chosen number of them into circulation and to imprint them at will with any monetary denomination such as \$1, \$5, or \$20, (\$50, or \$100). Once the notes are in circulation, it is impossible to drive them out..." (1) (P. 119)

Gold as circulating coin has vanished from the market place. But its "shadow" (1) (P. 115) in the form of silver and copper coins and paper bank notes is used as a means of buying and selling.

It was fashionable among some economists years ago to dismiss gold as a "barbaric relic" that had no place in our enlightened times of abundant ever increasing flood of banknotes. (It is not gold itself that is "barbaric" but the economic system which makes gold necessary as "a measure of Value and a standard of price" (1) which is the barbaric monster of our times!) By other "experts" we were informed that it was \$ notes which gave value to gold! (This is exactly like saying that it is the leading ther-

mometer that is the cause of boiling water to reach 100°C or 240°F.) How lucky for gold to "learn" that its value has jumped from \$21 per ounce to \$300.

As Marxists we see no merit in either inflation of prices or their depression. Human society over the past 80 years has experienced periodic cycles of both conditions. Both signify the existence of the commodity producing stage of social evolution which has long outlived its constructive term of development

C. Peter Farrer

World Socialist Party of Australia

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(1) "A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy," (1859) by K. Marx. Moscow publication 1970

Vol. for Vol. the economic work of Marx seems to contain more info regarding gold than any of his other works. He deals with it from the geological and other natural aspects; historical and artistic attitudes, ancient and modern usages and beliefs, how it has been adored and condemned, used at a national and international level in art or obstruct designs. Marx certainly left no doubts as to the exact relation between gold and other commodities in the exchange relation. Says he: "Labor-Time is the measure of both gold and commodities, and gold becomes the measure of value only because all commodities are measured in terms of gold. It is consequently merely an illusion created by the circulation process to suppose that money makes commodities commensurable, (having a common measure) On the contrary, it is only the commensurability, (having a common measure) of commodities as materialised labor-time which converts gold into money." (P. 67-68) (1)

(2) Melb. "Age" 19th July, 1979

A Tucson, Arizona Radio broadcast—

Election & Leaders

To socialists one of the most depressing, and in a sense intellectually humiliating, experiences is to observe the attitude of workers who subscribe to the philosophy of "leadership." At election time the political parties representing the capitalist system, and the capitalist class, insult the intelligence of the voters by claiming that their leaders can solve your insoluble problems. Each party deprecates the leaders of the opposition, and each party claims to have the best brains, and to be the reservoir for the leaders with the most ability. What hogwash! It is deception of the worst kind to claim that leaders can solve any of the real working class problems.

The working class have continuously placed their faith, hopes, and lives in the hands of their so-called leaders, and history has recorded that the leaders have led the workers through decades of blood, sweat, toil, tears, and misery. This was one promise incidentally which Winston Churchill was able to fulfill.

The working class should realize that they alone are responsible for producing and distributing all the wealth that is owned and controlled by the capitalist class, and that this is accomplished through their efforts alone and without "leadership," and that leaders do not exist and function to serve the interests of the workers. We urge our fellow workers to explore the case for socialism and in so doing we hope that you will join with us in rejecting anyone who claims absurdly to possess qualifications for leadership. We have no leaders in the socialist movement — we are self-educated socialists who have obtained whatever little socialist knowledge we have mainly through the educational sources of our party and by recommended reading and study. Our need for leadership is non-existent — we know what we want and we know how to get it.

The World Socialist Party rejects completely any claim that the Republican or Democratic Parties might make, either in the past, or in the present, to any fundamental differences. They exist as expressions of the interests of different sections of the property owning class, and when they take on the job of running capitalism the system itself dictates the course that events and governments must follow. The manipulation of capitalism, whilst intricate and complex, can only be made to operate *against* the interest of the majority. The appointed controllers find themselves more at the mercy of the invariable and repetitious problems of the system than they will ever admit, with the consequence that, as always in the past, election promises are broken, and solutions never materialize as expected.

The World Socialist Party of the United States, and its companion parties in Australia, Australia, Canada, England, New Zealand, and Ireland is the only political body that represents the interests of the working

Letter From Jamaica

The build up of political tension throughout '78 between the PNP government (Peoples National Party) and their supporters (including Communist) on one hand, and the JLP (Jamaica Labour Party) opposition and their supporters culminated in clashes in

January 1979 when the NPM (National Patriotic Movement) an affiliate of the JLP organised an island wide demonstration against increasing gas prices. The success of the demonstration probably frightened the Manley government, on the following day the Police and government supporters (brigadiers) began forcibly breaking up barricades, and firing shots on demonstrators. (About four people were shot.) The widespread support of this demonstration was not so much any proof of the opposition's strength, as it reflected how fed up people had become, from all sections of society about the constant price increases, and the general decline in living standards.

Things certainly ain't what they used to be, in this sunshine paradise. To simplify matters one could say that the cause of this present atmosphere of tension and fear started with one word: "Socialism." Yes, in 74 Michael Manley declared himself a "Democratic Socialist" and promised his government to fight to end exploitation.

It is now 79 and a lot of water has flown under the bridge since then. While workers awaited this new era of a little more for a lot more as indicated by Manley, investors foreign, and local became frightened and uncertain. As the tide of "anti capitalist" feeling swelled and grew investment fell off, factories and businesses closed and the cream of the leisured class moved on to Miami. Taking with them people with technical skills. As the exodus, and closures increased to the ranks of the unemployed. As capital flow dried up so did foreign currency to pay for basic imports. As wealth seemed threatened so has currency smuggling, and bureaucratic bribery become a pastime.

Manley's dream is now our nightmare. The total pettiness of his scope would have made bad fiction, in the way it has intensified hard life. (In fact it has, he has written two books.) Without foreign exchange dwindling production, increased unemployment, Manley begged the IMF to come in, they now have him and his government under "heavy manners." (A slogan Manley used against his opponents in the last general elections.) The big thing now for Manley is to secure a social contract with the opposition, unions, big business. The kind of prescription needed to "get the economy on its feet" will need a large measure of agreement because of its expected harshness to the working class. All this coming at a time when people hoped that the worst was perhaps behind them.

There is fear in Jamaica today. Violent crime is at epidemic proportions, chaos threatens institutions, political corruption is the order of the day. People of course are learning, for the first time politicians are being viewed with serious cynicism. However, it is only the achieving of a socialist world that can make any such severe process of understanding justifiable.

George Duijry

Left-wing antics in Winnipeg -

During the recent mayoralty election here, we saw the hilarious spectacle of three NDP'ers falling over each other to lay hold of the mayor's chair, each denouncing the other as being unqualified and incompetent for the mayor's job. Then there was Joe Zuken, representing the "Communist" Party of Canada. Joe, too, wanted the mayor's seat and decided to lead a wheel chair parade across Portage and Main St. to prove his concern for the handicapped.

(Anon)

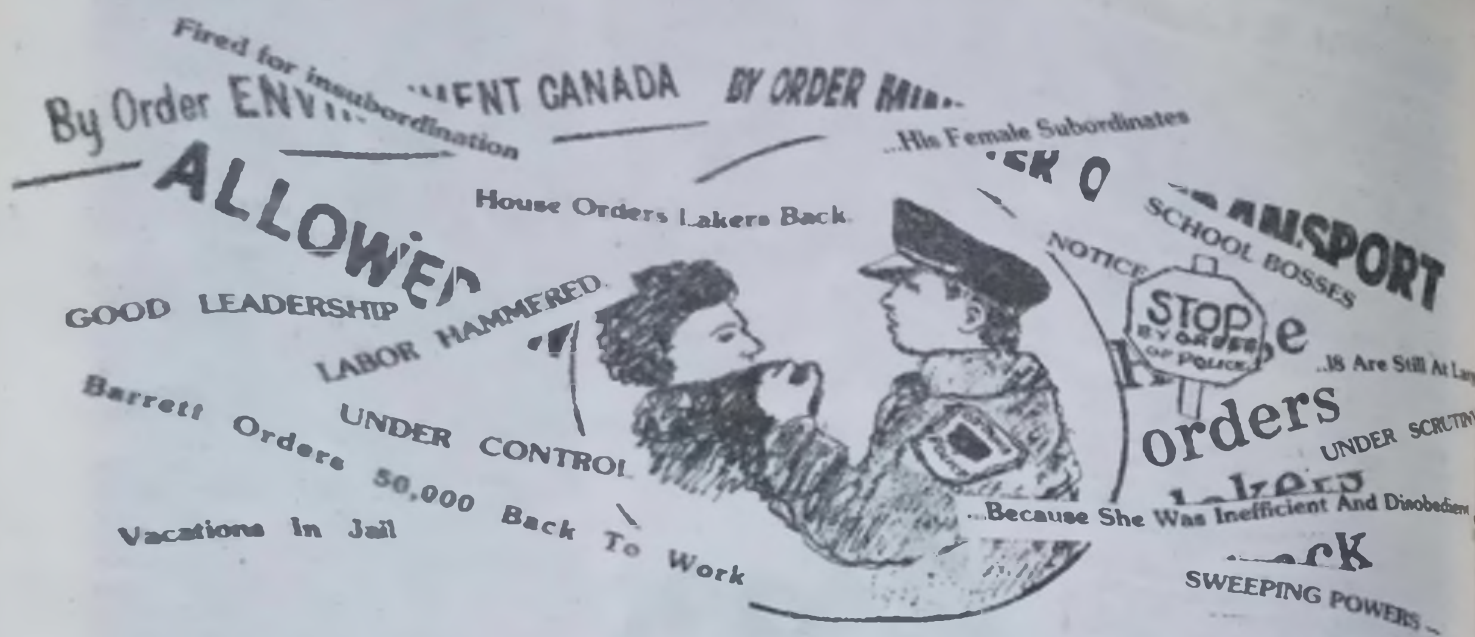


class, because we are the only party that is opposed to, and not interested in reforming, capitalism, and the only party that has as its objective — socialism. The only way that the working class throughout the world can obtain its emancipation and solve all its main problems is by the creation of a new system in which there will exist *no classes*. At all times *never* consider settling for anything less.

Please make contact with us. We want your questions and your comments. If you think that we are incorrect in our analysis and conclusions let us know, and tell us why. And if you think that we are right — then join with us in what we consider to be the grandest endeavour with which human beings can be associated. We need your help in these broadcasts. If we have in any way sparked your support, and you wish to identify with us in our struggle, which is yours also, don't hesitate to send us your contributions. You will find no better cause.

Samuel Leight

YOUR BALLOT



HANDLE WITH CARE

The well-being of humanity can be measured by its social organization and its command over the materials and forces of nature. Where technology is highly developed, but the lives of a majority are marginal, the cause can be put to the existence of a class divided system in which the means of production and distribution is monopolized by a minority, and manipulated to serve that minority's exclusive ends.

To preserve their position of privilege and dominance, the rulers of this divided planet, controlling the main avenues of information, naturally seek to ensure that the ideas of the population are the concepts that preserve their political power. This social power, via mental conditioning, is never absolute, even in the one-party, police state capitalist countries of the extreme left or extreme right. The reason being that one class of people, compelled to use their heads and hands to operate a sophisticated productive apparatus for another class, cannot be prevented indefinitely or completely from using the same mental capacity to perceive the deceptions used by the rulers.

Skepticism

The doubt that greets some of the main planks of the world capitalist-interest profit platform, is increasing.

The proportion of ordinary people who don't vote, "because they are all the same," is increasing. The distrust and resentment against politicians, the feelings of powerlessness and futility are due to experience and reasoning. These conclusions are not negative, but are lessons learned about the nature of current society during the struggle to survive, and point to the necessity for further independent thinking.

The professional liars, called leaders, hired by the employing class, hope the workers are too busy coping with the effects of producing profits for their masters (or looking for a chance to) to notice the failure of wages, welfare and reforms to make any fundamental difference to their lives. Part of their job is to conceal the fact that the sole function of governments is to try to run this chaotic system that causes the problems they pretend to be concerned with.

The CCF/NDP

The NDP promise that it would co-operate with either of the two big "enemy" parties, if it wins a balance of power position federally. Contrary to the knowledge some people have possessed for years, that CCF/NDPers are recycled Liberals and Conservatives. Dave Barrett's strike breaking dictum as Premier of B.C., in ordering 50,000 workers back to their involuntary work (wage-slaving) was an action as different to that of other CCF/NDP premiers, or of other governments allegedly overseeing exploitation in the interests of the exploited. The appointment of former Manitoba NDP premier, Ed Schreyer to Governor-General of Canada, spotlights the CCF/NDP for what it has always been, playing the bourgeois games of propriety and courtesy, obedience and homage to the status quo.

THE Bennett Barrett TWINS

In B.C. it is fairly common knowledge that Social Credit is merely a new name for the old Conservative Party. The NDP has replaced the old Liberal Party. These two parties make mountains out of various molehills in an endeavour to appear to be mutually hostile, the idea being to conceal the fact that they are as alike as two peas in a pod in their support of the present division of society into owners and non-owners of the means of life.

For instance, with the exception of the 1972-75 period, Social Credit has run a welfare state - private capitalism mixture since around 1953. To promote the illusion of polarity, both Social Credit and NDP leaders called the same system "free enterprise" when the Social Credit was in office, and "socialism" when the NDP was in.

Welfare Cutbacks

These Siamese twins are also unanimous when the master's voice calls for a decrease in government charity. The elder Bennett began the "social service" cutbacks toward the end of his tenure when the recession set in. They were continued by Barrett, and in turn by the young Bennett, as the demand for workers and therefore the state subsidies that keep workers in useable condition, fell off. Naturally, if the NDP vote harvesters again win the fruits of office, they will continue to act in the interest of the employing class by maintaining the hospital and dole cutbacks, in complete reversal of that part of their campaign stance.

Unemployment

The rottenness of capitalism is bound to permeate its politics. While joblessness increased toward the end of the elder Bennett's term, this did not stop his son from saying he could get B.C. on its feet again, after unemployment had increased under the NDP. While the business slump has remained under the new Social government,

Barrett has not hesitated to take his turn as saving the magic wand. The NDP has compounded working class indignation by pointing to the current prosperity in Saskatchewan as evidence that they can turn the trick in B.C. and federally. Their excuse about low unemployment rate in Tory Alberta is deafening.

The Alternative

Nineteenth Century, private state ownership conflicts with today's socialized productive method. As a system, socialism has never existed. When social ownership does catch up to the present technological world village, it will expand present productive capacity further, to accommodate the needs of all humanity on the basis of "from each according to ability, to each according to need." To move from the prevalent myth of higher or lower wages, or more or less workers making some difference, over to the concept of the moneyless, borderless community of voluntary co-operation and free access, is not an easy transition to make. But it helps if one rejects the habit of thinking that an advantage can be gained from cheating out against the others of a group of parties with no essential difference. Years of this electoral attitude has produced the problems of insecurity, pollution, the nuclear threat, starvation while food is destroyed to keep prices up.

Those who carry on administration in the classless democracy will not become a new set of rulers. Workers today are conditioned to equating the power structure with administration, whereas administration is actually carried on by ordinary people who represent no social force. Legislation on the other hand, is enacted by politicians who exercise the interests of the capitalist class in exploiting the rest of society. This is the anti-social source of the objectionable things done by governments. With the disappearance of the class division, with its minority ownership, the power structure will disappear. An engineer will have no more say in the affairs of society than a garbage collector, where the participation by all is aware, therefore equal.

The SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA is not contesting the 1979 election. Unfortunately all the candidates on the ballot stand for the same thing, capitalism. There is no provision on the ballot for those of the exploited majority who realize this and who want to record their voice for the alternative. The only recourse is the write-in ballot, which will be the recorded opposition and which is better than not voting. Write "SOCIALISM - SPC" across the ballot, over the names of the capitalist candidates.

Socialists are former skeptics about capitalism. To build the SOCIALIST PARTY into a working class voice big enough to run candidates, the help of all those who understand and support the foregoing ideas is required. For further information, write to

Socialist Party of Canada, Box 4280, Station A, Victoria, B.C., V8X 3X8 or phone 582-5927, 479-4665 or 479-9536

Vancouver - Box 1031, Station A, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 8P7 or telephone 688-3256.

Companion Parties in - Austria, Australia, USA, England, Ireland and New Zealand.

The May 22nd

ELECTION AND NDP CAPITALISM

Generally, the majority of people see elections as a chance to make a relatively tiny improvement here or there in their general lot. Or, during a depression,

elections are looked upon as an opportunity to prevent their personal situations from deteriorating. In this last

federal poll there appeared to be a significant minority which was dissatisfied or distrustful of all political organizations who contested. This is in addition to the large minority of voters,

(as high as 28 percent of the English speaking areas in the previous election) who habitually do not vote. The reasons being that they are not interested in politics or they realize all the parties known to them are the same and no basic improvement can be made to their lives by voting.

The stumped minority probably voted for a lesser evil, intruded as they appeared to be, with the value of the electoral system and not wanting to jeopardize it by not voting. The Socialist Party of Canada agrees with the non-voters who say little can be done "because they are all the same," but it does not agree that the ballot should be ignored, because the ballot is the only existing method whereby a conscious majority can become represented in Parliament for the purpose of solving their social problems.

The SPC instead suggests that all workers learn that their problems are not caused by how society is run or by who runs it but by the way society is organized.

Socialists do not regard Socialist society as being the wages, prices, profit system with the means of production being owned by the state and capitalism being the same economic institutions being run by privately owned businesses. Socialist perceive State ownership and private ownership as being two forms of the same thing - class ownership of the means of life, with wages being paid to maintain the lower class of people as efficient producers of profits for the owning class. The worker produces surpluses above the value of the rations paid for the upkeep of his energies and this surplus is the source of profit. Money enables the exchange of commodities so that profit can be realized as cash.

The logical outcome of this analysis is that Socialist society will be free of the economic institutions of world capitalism, such as money, wages, profits and their subsidies. With the disappearance of classes all citizens will have free access according to need, to the abundance which they will produce according to ability. Voluntary co-operation through conscious self interest.

From this it can be seen that it makes little difference how the system is run, or whether the ordinary people follow a charismatic leader who has a string of university degrees and was a flower in his lapel, or whether capitalism is administered by Joe Blow. The function of the system is to deprive the majority who do not share in the ownership of the means of life, of everything they produce, that is, to the extent that they are allowed to produce. Government statistics show that the distribution of wealth in the decades of the past has changed very little, and in the past few years has altered slightly in favor of the privileged few despite the massive reforms of the past half-century. The answer then is what the Socialist Party has said in all elections, that the issue for the vast majority of people is emancipation from wage-servitude to an exploiting class. Their subservient position in a class divided society is the cause of their problems.

PROMISES

Socialists were not surprised when both the NDP's Broadbent and the Liberals' Trudeau accused the Conservatives'

Clark of promising more than the national purse could afford, on their TV confrontation. Broadbent, as the alleged friend of the workers, must have been misled at being out-promised by the Tory enemy of the workers.

Like all nations however, the nation of Canada is an outmoded geo-political division of the earth, whose purpose is to administer the exploitation of the ordinary people who wage-slave within its boundaries. The national purse is tied to the national bosses' banquet table, and the volume of crumbs allowed to fall to the servants below is dependent upon the volume of bounty that graces the expensive linen. Despite the fact that the CCF/NDP has pioneered a lot of reforms (that the "old-line" parties have inaugurated) Socialists were not surprised at Broadbent's conservatism in this area of fringe cut-backs. The CCF/NDP has always campaigned on an impossible program of trying to run capitalism for its victims, the workers. Unavoidably it has catered to the profit needs of society's masters, both in office provincially and out of office.

Striving for rights for exploited people is well meaning and seems to be practical on the surface, but it ignores the cause of the workers' plight and is not Socialism.

The ordinary people comprise a subservient class, and it is their emancipation from this position that will deal with the misery finally.

Social services are usually subsidies to wages, and during periods of depression, such as the present, fewer willing hands are required to produce profits therefore less state charity to keep them in useable condition is dispensed. The books must be balanced and labor-power, is an economic category, a commodity that must be bought at its value, despite the troublesome fact that it exists in containers known as human beings. If labor power was as inanimate as materials and plant, possibly capitalism could function smoothly. And the NDP, being a slightly unordinary capitalist party, has no choice but to listen to the masters' voice.

But every in superficial matters, Broadbent, as have other CCF/NDP leaders, had little fear that his followers would not ride the waves of inconsistency. For instance, in B.C. he was full of praise for the province's forest giant, MacMillan Bloedel, as "an example of a corporate citizen doing a good job". In contradiction to his predecessor David Lewis's image of "corporate welfare bums". In the past, the villains have been just the big businesses, not the owning class as a whole; just big profits, not profits per se; and what were perceived to be extreme evils within capitalism, but not the system itself. No wonder the Conservative Party called the NDP a "Liberal farm team" during the recent election.

On one TV interview, in defending government deficits Broadbent said "...government spending could not be compared to a family budget because the average family was not making annual capital investments". Nothing like advising frugality and living within one's means to the workers, while to the owning class no such thought would enter their heads, except that their means are fantastic. "He preferred to compare the Canadian government to General Motors ... because corporations make investments for the purpose of earning a long-term pay back." (Earning?) (Victoria Times, April 28/79). Deficits helped to stimulate the (profit making) economy he said. Meanwhile in the same paper he was reported to have poked fun at Trudeau's promise of tax breaks for workers who buy company stocks, while speaking to an Ontario Federation of Labor women's meeting.

Broadbent accurately pointed out that Canadian workers and particularly Canadian women can hardly afford to put food on the table. They are not interested in stocks, as his audience of working women

laughed.

It could be wondered if the laughter was a nervous titter as some of the women may have perceived the phony implication that they would be able to buy stocks if they received high wages. That the NDP knight mounted on his white charger was looking for non-existent dragons to slay. Insecurity is due to the wages system, sometimes high wages, sometimes low wages, of which the NDP is a champion.

TOMMY DOUGLAS

The CCF/NDP's third national shepherd, Tommy Douglas has just retired from the propaganda scene as a Member of the House of Commons. He admitted during a 1982 campaign that 75 per cent of the proposals in the Regina Manifesto were a part of the laws of Canada by that time. Perhaps he was just as blind as those he led, for he said at a picnic last July 23rd, at Boggy Creek near Regina, in what seemed to be a burst of insight, that poverty and injustice can never be ended. All that can be expected is guerrilla attacks against them. (CFMS Radio News Report, that evening). Then he told the 6,998 followers in the sun that "the bright new world many of them first started to work for in the 1930's is still as bright and still as achievable." (The Commonwealth, July 26th/78).

Not to let little contradictions bother him, he made a comment in an interview for *Weekend* (May 19/79) which may indicate he was away of his deadly role against the workers. *Weekend* said:

He reflects on the difficulty of inspiring his followers with a vision of society without raising expectations to a level no government can fulfill.

A little problem afflicting all leaders, whose function is to deceive, to protect the profit interests of the owning class.

THE CLC

It is presumed the CLC spent its annual \$2 million bequest from the Trudeau government for political "education" on helping to keep the workers loyal to capitalism, plus much more from membership dues. It was observed that union offices across the country had the appearance of NDP campaign centers.

Badly for the union leaders' personal aspirations, their rank and file expressed their support for the rat-race through the old line parties instead of the NDP.

Broadbent was disappointed over the NDP's gain of a mere 3 percent of the vote over last time. And on his Party's virtual wipe-out in Ontario, despite the massive union aid plus government

financial aid to the three big parties making available a fancy government jet to hop around the country in and a spot on the Grits and Tories on prime time

TV. Aside from the assurance that older parties will continue to legislate NDP programs, there could be a theory advanced, that is held by some workers,

that it is better to vote for the villain you

know than for the one you don't know.

As one Saskatchewan old time put it when referring to the CCF/NDP's opportunism.

Now the socialists are generally more capitalistic than the capitalists, but they take on the name because it goes big. The CCF/NDP with its Social Democratic companions in other countries has compounded the difficulty of helping the workers to understand that ending the capital vs. wage-labor relationship is the answer to their problems.

SOCIALIST VISITOR

The world scope of the Socialist movement is emphasized when a comrade from another country addresses local audiences. Comrade Cyril May of the Socialist Party of Great Britain visited North America in September of 1979. He used his extensive speaking experience, gained at the Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park, to spread the Socialist case.

After soapboxing in Boston Common he arrived by plane in Victoria on Friday, September 21. That evening the S.P.C. sponsored a program on the local cable television station where Comrade May gave a short talk presenting the principles of the Companion Parties. Following there was a question and answer session where the viewers phoned in their questions.

The following day Comrade May had a lengthy interview with a reporter from the *Victoria Daily Times*, which appeared on the front page of the second section and included a picture of Comrade May, his personal background, his involvement with the Speaker's Corner and a description of Socialism as, "a world without money, without class, without leaders, and where everyone is equal." Considering the usual minimal press coverage given the S.P.C., this article was reasonable and was probably inspired by the, "exotic," i.e. foreign, nature of the subject.

On Sunday evening there was a public meeting at the Union Centre where Comrade May gave a lengthy talk followed by a discussion session. On Tuesday there was a noon hour public meeting at the University of Victoria and the subject was starvation. Comrade May's speaking experience was evident in the direct manner in which he handled some disruptive Bolshevik types.

He then went to Vancouver where, on Wednesday, he was interviewed on a radio show, taped a segment for an evening talk show on Channel 21 (CKVU-TV), and flew east to Toronto. There he spoke at one indoor meeting and soapboxed at Allan Gardens before returning to Britain.

Visiting speakers are always welcome and though Comrade May did not address as many people as did the Queen on her North American tour, he was much more informative.

Men are raised to politics, their competitive skills nurtured in the games they play, by cajolery and chicanery become as familiar to them as the act of shaking hands. They accustom themselves to life to being used, as blocking bats, pitch-men and postbearers, and to using others. Utility is the current that drives them, builds their estates, provides purchase for the ladder's ascent. They spend their productive years as shameless buyers and sellers in a free market of human flesh, muscle and mind.

Dillon Camp - POINTS OF DEPARTURE

A SOCIALIST STATEMENT ON RUSSIA

Talk today to the average person about socialism or communism and most people will think of Russia. The Communist Party has attempted to deceive the workers into believing that State Capitalism is socialism and that communism is the next stage in its development. This is political garbage of the worst kind.

The well-known features of capitalism that exist in the United States, England, Europe, and the whole world over, are transparently evident in Russia. In Russia you have a class monopoly of the means of production and distribution. Whether the exploitation of the working class is by individual capitalism, corporations, or as in Russia exploitation by the State, with the Communist Party officiating as the Chairman of the Board, the position of the workers is the same. The fundamental crux of the issue is not who or what exploits you, or to what degree, but the very existence of exploitation itself. In Russia you have a wages system, and the Russian working class, just like workers everywhere else, have to sell their mental and physical energies to an employer for wages or salary. In the U.S.S.R. it is the State who is the employer, acting as agent for the Russian Ruling Class. You have vast inequalities of wealth and income in Russia and, just like elsewhere, production of commodities for sale and profit.

The main feature that Russia has, that most fortunately we don't have here, is the despotic dictatorship of the Communist Party, which in its history has perpetrated the social crime of the suppression of democracy and has committed murder against the class that it claims to represent.

Soon there will eliminate classes, rulers and ruled. Once you understand the true meaning of socialism the political massacres in Russia and China will be easily recognized by you for what it is — state capitalism, devoid of democracy, and despotically administered by the owning ruling class Communist Party.

Your interests and ours are identical — the abolition, peacefully and democratically, of capitalism, and the establishment of a system where we will own in common the instruments of wealth production and distribution, and we will all own what is produced, with free access to whatever we need. This system we call socialism. Contact us with your questions and comments. We need your support — the interests of humanity needs socialism!

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DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

The Socialist Party of Canada declares:

1. That Society as at present constituted is based upon the ownership of the means of living (land, factories, railways, etc.), by the capitalist master class, and the consequent exploitation of the working class, by whose labour alone wealth is produced.

2. That in society, therefore, there is an antagonism of interests, manifesting itself in a class struggle, between those who possess but do not produce, and those who produce but do not possess.

3. That this antagonism can be abolished only by the emancipation of the working class from the domination of the master class, by the conversion into the common property of society of the means of production and distribution, and their democratic control by the whole people.

4. That as in the order of social evolution the working class is the last class to achieve its freedom, the emancipation of the working class will involve the emancipation of all mankind without distinction of race or sex.

5. That this emancipation must be the work of the working class itself.

6. That as the machinery of government, including the armed forces of the nation, can only to conserve the monopoly in the capitalist class of the wealth taken from the workers, the working class must organize consciously and politically for the conquest of the power of government, national and local, in order that the machinery, including these forces, may be converted from an instrument of oppression into the agent of emancipation and the overthrow of privilege, aristocracy and plutocracy.

7. That as all political parties are but the expression of class interests, and as the interests of the working class is diametrically opposed to the interests of all sections of the master class, the party seeking working-class emancipation must be hostile to every other party.

8. The Socialist Party of Canada therefore, enters the field of political action determined to wage war against all other political parties, whether alleged labour or avowedly capitalist, grounded upon the members of the working class to surrender their banners to the end that a speedy emancipation may be wrought to the extent which deprives them of the fruits of their labour, and that poverty may give place to comfort, privilege to equality, and slavery to freedom.

These seven parties adhere to the same Socialist Principles:

Socialist Party of Canada P.B. 4280,

Stn. A, Victoria, B.C. V8X 3X8

World Socialist Party of U.S.

295 Huntington Ave., Boston, Mass. 02115

Socialist Party of Great Britain

52 Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4 1

World Socialist Party of Australia

P.B. 1440, Melbourne

Socialist Party of New Zealand

P.B. 1929, Auckland

Bund Demokratischer Sozialisten

Gusslergasse 50, A-100, Vienna, Austria

World Socialist Party of Ireland

3 Pym St., Antrim Rd., Belfast, N. Ireland

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